

Amendments to the claims:

1. (original) A cash dispensing automated banking machine comprising:

a housing;

a cash dispenser positioned within the housing;

wherein the housing includes at least two sheet metal parts, wherein at least one of the parts includes at least one tab, wherein a second one of the parts includes at least one slot, wherein the at least one tab includes a base portion with at least one groove therein, wherein the at least one groove has a depth which is less than the thickness of the at least one tab, wherein the at least one tab extends through the at least one slot and is bent at the groove to lie adjacent a surface of the second part.

2. (original) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tab tapers from the base portion to a relatively narrower tip portion.

3. (original) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the at least one slot includes an elongated portion with a width that substantially corresponds to a width of the base portion of the at least one tab, wherein the elongated portion includes at least two side edges, wherein at least one of the side edges includes an outwardly bowed portion which provides the at least one slot

with a wider center relative to the thickness of the at least one slot at each end of the elongated portion.

4. (original) The machine according to claim 3, wherein the bowed portion does not extend to at least one end of the elongated portion.
5. (original) The machine according to claim 4, wherein the bowed portion does not extend to each of the ends of the elongated portion.
6. (original) The machine according to claim 3, wherein the bowed portion has a length which is less than the length of the elongated portion.
7. (currently amended) The machine according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3, wherein the bowed portion has a generally semi-circular shape.
8. (original) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the length of the groove is less than the width of the base portion.
9. (original) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the length of the groove does not extend to at least one edge of the at least one tab.

10. (original) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the second part includes a loop, wherein a slot extends through the loop, wherein a tab includes at least two bends which provide the tab with a shape which extends around an edge of the loop, wherein an outer one of the bends includes the groove.

11. (original) A method of forming a housing for an automated banking machine which includes a cash dispenser comprising:

- a) providing at least two sheet metal parts, wherein a first one of the parts includes at least one tab, wherein a second one of the parts includes at least one slot therethrough, wherein the at least one tab includes a groove therein with a depth that is less than the thickness of the at least one tab;
- b) inserting the at least one tab into the at least one slot; and
- c) bending the at least one tab at the location of the groove to a position adjacent a surface of the second part.

12. (original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in (a) the at least one tab includes a base portion adjacent a body of the first part which tapers toward a tip portion, wherein the groove extends adjacent the base portion.

13. (original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in (a) the at least one slot includes an elongated portion with a width that substantially corresponds to a width of the base portion of the at least one tab, wherein the elongated portion includes at least two side edges, wherein at least one of the side edges includes a outwardly bowed portion which provides the at least one slot with a wider center relative to the thickness of the at least one slot at each end of the elongated portion.

14. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein in (a) the bowed portion does not extend to at least one end of the elongated portion.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein in (a) the bowed portion does not extend to each of the ends of the elongated portion.

16. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein in (a) the bowed portion has a length which is less than the length of the elongated portion.

17. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein in (a) a gap is present between at least a portion of the first part and the second part, wherein (c) includes urging the parts together into abutting engagement.

18. (original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in (a) the second part includes a loop, wherein a slot extends through the loop, further comprising prior to (c) bending a tab adjacent a base of the tab to form a first bend, wherein the groove is located on the tab between the first bend and a tip of the tab, wherein (c) forms a second bend which provides the tab with a shape that extends around the loop.

19. (new) A method of forming a housing for an automated banking machine which includes a cash dispenser, wherein the housing includes at least two housing portions, wherein a first portion of the housing includes at least one tab, wherein a second portion of the housing includes at least one slot, wherein the at least one tab includes at least one groove therein, wherein the method comprises:

- a) inserting the at least one tab of the first portion of the housing into the at least one slot of the second portion of the housing; and
- b) bending the at least one tab at the location of the groove in the at least one tab to place the first portion of the housing in locking engagement with the second portion of the housing.

20 (new) the method according to claim 19, further comprising:

- c) prior to (a) through operation of a laser, cutting the groove in the at least one tab to a depth that is less than the thickness of the tab.